(d) The concerned Ministries undertake evaluation studies from time to time through reputed research organizations/institutions to evalute the performance and assess the impact of the programmes and to identify problems in course of implementation to make mid-term corrections, wherever necessary.

(e) Does not arise.

Unemployment in the country

494. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment is rapidly increasing in the country due to fall in production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization, unemployment rate on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis has increased from 7.31% in 1999-2000 (55th round) to 8.28% in 2004-05 (61st round). The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 was estimated at 6.13% per annum.

Observation by World Bank's India based Director

495. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINlSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of observations made by World Bank's India-based Director during September, 2007 that 'sustainability of India's growth story would critically depend on the manner in which country addressed the constraints of infrastructure, skill enhancement and education';

(b) if so, whether Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012 would adequately take care of this situation in spite of often-repeated 'constraint of resources' syndrome; and

(c) whether farm economy having minimum growth rate, adversely effecting DGP, would multi-dimensional attention be paid to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per a newspaper report, the World Bank's country Director for India, Isabel M. Guerrero, said that, "sustainability of India's growth story would critically depend on how the country addressed the constraints of infrastructure, skill enhancement and

education." (Hindustan Times, 28th September, 2007, New Delhi edition). These however, should be construed as personal remarks of Country Director India, for the World Bank and there has been no official correspondence from the Bank in this regard.

(b) The investment requirements to sustain India's growth rate of 9 per cent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan have not been fixed.

(c) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan targets an annual growth rate of 4% for the agriculture sector. The Approach Paper mentions various strategic measures for accelerating the agricultural output. These include doubling the rate of growth of irrigated area; improving water management; rainwater harvesting and watershed development; reclaim degraded land and focus on soil quality; bridge the knowledge gap through effective extension; diversify into high value outputs with adequate measures to ensure food security; promote animal husbandry and fishery; easy access to credit; improve incentive structure and functioning of markets and refocus on land reform issues.

NHAI projects under World Bank loans

† 496. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thirty projects in the country are under construction under loans obtained from the World Bank by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if not, the details thereof and the actual number of these projects at present;

(c) whether there is delay in the construction of these projects from the target time; and

(d) if so, the number of delayed projects under construction alongwith the period of minimum and maximum delay in this regard, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is implementing 30 contracts packages on National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I & II under World Bank Loan Assistance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. There has been some delays in the completion of a few contracts primarily due to delay in acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, delay in environment and forest clearances, delay in clearances from Railways, poor performance of some contractors, termination of one contract.

(d) The details of World Bank funded projects currently under implementation and delayed from scheduled completion date is given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.